

May 2, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Easter



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are glad to be gathered with you. Please remember to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Thank you to this morning's worship assistants:

Sandy Matsen (reader), Ted & Elaine Jermansen (greeters), and Harold & Martha Wrede (ushers).

This morning's hymns:

"We Know that Christ is Raised" ELW 449

"Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song" ELW 403

"On Our Way Rejoicing" ELW 537

The altar flowers are given by John & Jann McAleer in memory of Andrew.



Please continue to support Zion's ministries with your offerings and prayers.

Financial contributions can be mailed to P.O. Box 41, Oldwick, NJ 08858.



Mothers' Day 2021 Lemonade Social


On May 9th following 10:30 a.m. worship we will gather outside on the church lawn for lemonade, muffins, and sweet treats as we celebrate ALL women of Zion Lutheran Church. Please join us in this time of fellowship!



Next Sunday, May 9th, will be the first of three Endowment Sundays for 2021. Additional Endowment Sundays will be on Father's Day, June 20th, and All Saints Sunday, November 7th. As a tribute to all mothers, please consider giving what you can to the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund on May 9th. Please remember, too, that the church will accept non-cash contributions, toward the endowment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office or a member of the Endowment Committee. Envelopes marked "Endowment Fund" will be placed in all the pews.



Give to Zion from your phone! Scan the QR code to be directed to Tithely's electronic giving site.

CROSS  ROADS Are you hungry for a deeper CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER relationship with God? Do you thirst for a more meaningful prayer life? Join the team from Cross Roads for **Wednesdays Away**, a time of spiritual renewal on the first Wednesday of the month. The next opportunity for virtual retreat is on May 5th. Please visit www.crossroadsretreat.com to register.



The **First Communion** class and their families will be meeting on Wednesday, May 5th, at 6:30 p.m. to pre-pack the brown bag lunches for Faith Kitchen. Please RSVP to Rhonda Rossi.



Mark your calendars for **June 28th – July 2nd**. God's Great Get-Together won't be the same without YOU! Vacation Bible School is coming to Zion Lutheran Church. We plan to meet outside under canopies and follow all CDC guidelines in order to keep everyone safe. Please visit zionoldwick.com/connect to sign up.

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

[Jesus said:] ¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

May 2, 2021

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members

- + **Phil Colasurdo**, *who is recovering from a cardiac stent placement.*
- + **Dillon**, *who continues his healing.*
- + **Linda Herder**, *who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer.*
- + **Donna Hunter**, *who is recovering from breast cancer surgery.*
- + **Bonnie Summer**, *who is undergoing rehabilitation and recovering at home.*
- + **Ted Talis**, *who is recovering at home.*

Friends and Family

- + **Rita Gorky**, *mother of Paul Gorky, who is recovering from a stroke, is limited in verbal expression and needs daily assistance.*
- + **Ken**, *father of Amanda Smith, who has been diagnosed with cancer.*
- + **Sally Kohl**, *mother of Stacey Rothermel, who is struggling with Parkinson's disease.*
- + **Susan Miluk**, *sister of Jim Dierking, who is recovering from COVID-19 and undergoing treatment for multiple myeloma.*
- + **Lonn Mullen**, *friend of Eric Evers, who is recovering from surgery for bile duct cancer.*
- + **Jim Price**, *friend of Jim & Linda Dierking, who is recovering from surgery for a malignant melanoma.*
- + **Ronnielynn**, *friend of Sue Schermerhorn, who has stage four colon cancer and is starting chemo.*
- + **Parker Smith**, *grandson of Linda & Greg Smith, who continues to be monitored for low oxygen levels while sleeping.*

Those in the Armed Services

Lindsay Carrick, Daemon Durham, Christopher Grinnell, Robert Heinke, Erik Lindquist, Hunter MacKenzie, David Maravel, Cody McAleer, Gilbert Mercedes, Patty Oelschlager, Kurt Rossi, Elizabeth Snyder, Daniel Wort, Joshua Wort

Suggested prayer for those with health concerns:

Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace. Grant to our sisters and brothers an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In their pain, weariness, and anxiety, surround them with your care, protect them by your loving might, and grant to them once again the gifts of health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Suggested prayer for military members:

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces, and all who serve this country at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.